[*English*]

Shortage of Pig Iron

*364. SHIR HARI KISHORE SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether shortage of pig iron has created problems for foundries in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to tide over the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) As per the report received from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh, foundry units in the State have been facing problems due to shortage of pig iron.

(b) There is an overall shortage of pig iron in the country. As against the total estimated demand for pig iron of 1.92 million tonnes in 1991–92, the estimated domestic production is only 1.44 million tonnes.

(c) About 73,300 tonnes of pig iron had been despatched by the main producers to Uttar Pradesh during the period April–December, 1991. Despatch of pig iron to Uttar Pradesh by main producers will be continued, depending upon the availability for supply. Import of pig iron is allowed under OGL. Import duty has also been reduced to 35% from 55% with effect from 16th January, 1992.

Irrigation Projects in Cauvery Basin

*365. SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of major and medium irrigation projects taken up for execution in the Cauvery basin;

(b) the estimated amount spent so far on each of the projects.

(c) the total area brought under irrigation so far; and

(d) the additional expenditure required for their completion?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.